

Message Text

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44

ACTION ACDA-19

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 NEA-10 TRSE-00 SAJ-01 AEC-11 AECE-00 OIC-04

OMB-01 DRC-01 /164 W

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P R 271216Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 315

SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION NATO

USNMR SHAPE

USCINCEUR

S E C R E T VIENNA 8872

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJECT: MBFR: SUMMARY REPORT FOR PERIOD ENDING 26 OCTOBER

GENEVA FOR CSCE AND SALT DELS

FROM US REP MBFR

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. AD HOC GROUP SPENT MOST OF WEEK ATTENDING TO PROCEDURAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS RELATING TO THE OPENING OF THE NEGOTIATIONS AND THE SCHEDULING OF AD HOC GROUP MEETINGS AND PLENARIES. THE MAIN SUBSTANTIVE PROJECT OF THE WEEK WAS THE GROUP'S FIRST EXAMINATION OF THE US DRAFT ON "POSSIBLE THEMES FOR MBFR NEGOTIATIONS." AS THE OUTCOME OF THIS EXAMINATION, INDIVIDUAL AD HOC GROUP REPS HAVE BEGUN DRAFTING ASSIGNED THEMES INTENDED TO BE THE FOCUS OF WESTERN CONTRIBUTIONS TO PLENARY SESSIONS AFTER THE OPENING STATEMENTS ARE

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COMPLETED. A NUMBER OF OPENING STATEMENTS, INCLUDING THAT

OF THE US, WERE REEXAMINED AND APPROVED BY THE GROUP. THE SUM OF THE WEEK'S ACTIVITY LEFT THE AD HOC GROUP REASONABLY WELL PREPARED TO START THE TALKS WITH THE EAST NEXT WEEK. END SUMMARY

2. TIMING OF MEETINGS. DURING THE WEEK, THE AD HOC GROUP SETTLED ON A SCHEDULE FOR THE OPENING SESSIONS TO PROPOSE TO THE EAST. THE ALLIES WILL ASK THAT THE OPENING STATEMENTS BE SPREAD OUT OVER THREE SESSIONS ON 30 AND 31 OCTOBER. MORNING AND AFTERNOON SESSIONS ON THE 30TH WOULD HOPEFULLY HANDLE ALL OF THE OPENING STATEMENTS EXCEPT THOSE OF TURKEY, THE UK, THE USSR, AND THE US. THE LATTER FOUR WOULD BE PRESENTED ON THE MORNING OF THE 31ST. BECAUSE MOST WARSAW PACT DELEGATIONS HAVE YET TO ARRIVE IN VIENNA, THERE REMAINS SOME UNCERTAINTY AS TO WHETHER THIS SCHEDULE -- AND A NUMBER OF OTHER PROCEDURAL ARRANGEMENTS PREFERRED BY THE ALLIES -- WILL BE ACCEPTABLE TO THE SOVIET AND EAST EUROPEAN DELEGATIONS. THE PREFERRED WESTERN SCHEDULE IS DESIGNED TO FACILITATE WESTERN PRESS COVERAGE AND TO ALLOW AMBASSADOR QUARLES OF THE NETHERLANDS TO MEET WITH THE PRESS FOLLOWING THE SESSION ON THE 31ST TO OUTLINE THE OPENING WESTERN POSITION AND TO GIVE INITIAL REACTION ALONG AGREED LINES TO THE EASTERN PRESENTATIONS.

3. THE ALLIED REPS IN VIENNA ALSO AGREED ON A WORK SCHEDULE FOR THE AD HOC GROUP IN CONJUNCTION WITH A DESIRED SCHEDULE FOR PLENARY SESSIONS FOR THE NEXT SIX WEEKS WHICH WILL HAVE TO BE AGREED WITH THE EAST. THE GROUP DECIDED THAT PLENARIES SHOULD BE HELD EVERY TUESDAY AND THURSDAY MORNINGS. THE AD HOC GROUP WOULD BRACKET THE PLENARY SESSIONS, MEETING ON MONDAY AFTERNOON, TUESDAY AFTERNOON, WEDNESDAY MORNING, AND THURSDAY AFTERNOON. THE GROUP AGREED THAT THE ORAL REPORTS TO THE NAC EVERY THIRD WEEK WOULD BEST BE SCHEDULED ON FRIDAY MORNING.

4. DATA. DISCUSSIONS OF DATA PROBLEMS DURING THE WEEK CENTERED ON THE REQUIREMENT THAT AMBASSADOR QUARLES HAVE GOOD BASIC FIGURES TO USE WITH THE PRESS ON THE 31ST. ALTHOUGH THE GROUP WAS DISTRESSED BY THE APPARENT DISCREPANCIES BETWEEN NEW US FIGURES AND THOSE CURRENTLY ACCEPTED IN NATO, THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE NATO MILITARY STAFF, GROUP CAPTAIN SMITH, TOLD THE ALLIED REPS THAT THERE SHOULD BE NO OBJECTIVE MILITARY SECRET

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DIFFICULTIES IN ACHIEVING NATO AGREEMENT BY THE 31ST ON THE US FIGURES FOR PUBLIC USE BY THE ALLIES.

5. THEMES. THE AD HOC GROUP MADE GOOD PROGRESS OUTLINING THE THEMES THAT THE ALLIES WILL DEPLOY AS THE FOLLOW-ON TO THE OPENING STATEMENTS, WHICH ARE INTENDED TO LEAD UP TO PRESENTATION OF THE WESTERN FRAMEWORK PROPOSAL. FOLLOWING DISCUSSION BASED ON THE US DRAFT OF "POSSIBLE THEMES FOR MBFR NEGOTIATIONS," THE

TOPICS WERE DIVIDED AMONG THE MEMBERS OF THE GROUP. THE GROUP AGREED THAT THE AREA THEME SHOULD BE GIVEN ONLY BRIEF DEVELOPMENT AND THAT THE WESTERN SIDE SHOULD PRIMARILY ASSERT THAT THE QUESTION WAS SETTLED BY THE OUTCOME OF THE PRELIMINARY TALKS, THE UK REP (ROSE) SAID THAT HE INTENDED TO CONCENTRATE ON "DISPARITIES" AND TO SUBSUME "AREA" WITHIN THAT DISCUSSION. THE GROUP ALSO AGREED THAT IN DISCUSSING FORCE ELEMENTS, THE FOCUS SHOULD BE ON CAPABILITIES INSTEAD OF INTENTIONS, SINCE ASSERTIONS CONCERNING INTENTIONS COULD LEAD TO NON-PRODUCTIVE EXCHANGES. IT WAS THE CONSENSUS OF THE GROUP -- WITH THE BRITISH SILENT -- THAT THE CONCEPT OF PHASING SHOULD BE PRESENTED IN SUFFICIENTLY BROAD TERMS TO REFER TO THE POSSIBILITY OF ALLIED REDUCTIONS IN THE MBFR PROJECT IN THE SECOND PHASE.

6. OPENING STATEMENTS. THE FOLLOWING OPENING STATEMENTS (SLIGHTLY REVISED IN MOST CASES) WERE PASSED ON BY THE GROUP: US, THE NETHERLANDS, DENMARK, BELGIUM, NORWAY, ITALY, CANADA, UK, AND GREECE. THE CANADIAN (GRANDE) AND FRG (BEHREND) REPS SOUGHT AND OBTAINED APPROVAL OF THEIR AUTHORITIES TO DELETE -- AS THE US HAS DONE -- REFERENCES IN THEIR OPENING STATEMENT TO EFFECT THAT FORCE INCREASES DURING NEGOTIATIONS COULD IMPERIL MUTUAL CONFIDENCE. FRG REP ANNOUNCED THAT HE HAD STRUCK TWO REFERENCES TO DETENTE FROM THE WEST GERMAN SPEECH GIVEN THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST.

7. ASSESSMENT. THE ALLIED REPS ARE NOW REASONABLY WELL SET FOR THE OPENING SESSIONS OF THE CONFERENCE ON THE "MUTUAL REDUCTION OF FORCES AND ARMAMENTS AND ASSOCIATED MEASURES IN CENTRAL EUROPE." ALTHOUGH THE MIDDLE EASTERN SITUATION HAS CAST UNCERTAINTY ACROSS THE FUTURE OF THE EAST-WEST DETENTE, IT HAS HAD LITTLE DIRECT EFFECT ON THE WORK OF THE AD HOC GROUP. ALSO CREATING CONSIDERABLE UNCERTAINTY IN THE LOCAL SENSE IS THE FACT THAT THERE HAS BEEN VERY LITTLE CONTACT IN VIENNA WITH WARSAW

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PACT REPS, MOST OF WHOM HAVE YET TO ARRIVE HERE.
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